REMARKS

Claims 1-11 are cancelled and claims 12-31 have been added.

Entry of this Preliminary Amendment is in order, and an early and favorable first action on the merits is respectfully requested. However, in the event of any outstanding issues, the Examiner is courteously invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below in an effort to expedite prosecution.

To the extent necessary, Applicants hereby request any required extension of time not otherwise requested and hereby authorizes the Commissioner to charge any prescribed fee not otherwise provided for, including application processing, extension, and extra claim fees, to Deposit Account No. 25-0120.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON

Benoit Castel, Reg. No. 35,041

745 South 23rd Street Arlington, VA 22202 Telephone (703) 521-2297 Telefax (703) 685-0573

(703) 979-4709

BC/sj

Due Date: <u>July 4, 2006</u>
July 4, 2006 being a Holiday.